



**STANDING ADVISORY  
COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION  
AGENDA**

<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Tuesday 23 June 2026</b>	<b>First Floor Mick Fury House, Iowen Road, Rainham, RM13 8HT</b>
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Members **29**: Quorum **9** ***BUT*** a minimum of **one** representative must attend from each group

**Representative Groups (current membership)**

**Group A**

**Representing  
Christian denominations and  
other religious  
denominations and beliefs (17):**

George Prinn, Humanist  
Mr Peter Feinson, Baptist  
Dr John Lester, Baha'i faith  
Mr Om Dhir, Hindu  
Mr Kamal Siddiqui, Sunni Muslim  
Mr Tariq Mahmood, Sunni Muslim  
Mrs Jenny Fox, Salvation Army  
Mrs Dawn Ladbrook, Evangelical Free Church  
Pastor Aloysius Peter, Pentecostal Church  
Mr Nasir Mubashar, Ahmadiyya Muslim  
Mr Luthaneal Adams, Pagan Federation  
Barry Smith, United Reformed Church  
Wendy Brice-Thompson, Roman Catholic  
Corinne Simmons, Jewish

**Group B**

**Representing the  
Church of England (3):**

Mrs Stephanie Ellner  
Ruth Everett

**Group C**

**Representing  
teachers (4):**

Kathryn Everitt

**Group D**

**Representing the  
Local Authority (5):**

Councillor Khuram Amin  
Councillor Graham Edwards  
Councillor Kevin Gill  
Councillor Sathya Maddasani  
Councillor Henry Williams



Sidra Naeem

**For information about the meeting please contact:  
Michelle Morgan 01708 433879  
michelle.morgan@haverling.gov.uk**

## **Protocol for members of the public wishing to report on meetings of the London Borough of Havering**

Members of the public are entitled to report on meetings of Council, Committees and Cabinet, except in circumstances where the public have been excluded as permitted by law.

Reporting means:-

- filming, photographing or making an audio recording of the proceedings of the meeting;
- using any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later; or
- reporting or providing commentary on proceedings at a meeting, orally or in writing, so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later if the person is not present.

Anyone present at a meeting as it takes place is not permitted to carry out an oral commentary or report. This is to prevent the business of the meeting being disrupted.

Anyone attending a meeting is asked to advise Democratic Services staff on 01708 433076 that they wish to report on the meeting and how they wish to do so. This is to enable employees to guide anyone choosing to report on proceedings to an appropriate place from which to be able to report effectively.

Members of the public are asked to remain seated throughout the meeting as standing up and walking around could distract from the business in hand.

Announcement of the arrangements in case of fire or other events which might require the evacuation of the meeting-room or building.

**Please turn off or mute any mobile phone**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - IF ANY, TO RECEIVE**

**2 NEW OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

To note any substitute members present at the meeting and welcome any new members.

**3 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

**4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING (Pages 5 - 28)**

To receive and approve the minutes from the following meetings: 24 June 2025, 25 November 2025 and 12 February 2026.

**5 UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY**

**6 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Pages 29 - 36)**

**7 UPDATE ON AGREED SYLLABUS**

**8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Any member may raise issues previously notified to either the Chair or the Clerk (unless the issue relates to a matter arising from the meeting itself or is of an urgent nature, when the Chair will determine whether to allow it or not).

**9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Dates for the 2026-2027 SACRE meetings and venues, to be confirmed.

**Michelle Morgan  
Clerk to SACRE**

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**24 June 2025**

The meeting took place via Zoom

Present

### **Representing Christian denominations and other religious dominations and beliefs (Group A):**

Wendy Brice-Thompson, Roman Catholic  
Om Dhir, Hindu  
Peter Feinson, Baptist  
Jenny Fox, Salvation Army  
Dawn Ladbrook, Evangelical Free Church  
Dr John Lester, Baha'i faith  
George Prinn, Humanist  
John Smailes, Evangelical Free Church

### **Representing the Church of England (Group B):**

Stephanie Ellner  
Ruth Everett

### **Representing teachers (Group C):**

Karen Van Coevorden

### **Representing the Local Authority (Group D):**

Councillor David Taylor

### **Co-opted Member**

Sidra Naeem

### **Professional adviser:**

Julia Diamond-Conway

Michelle Morgan – Clerk, Havering Governor Services

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

In the absence of the Chair, JL agreed to Chair the meeting and would be referred to as the Acting Chair (until election of Chair).

Apologies for absence had been received from Corinne Simmons, Councillor Jacqueline McArdle and Councillor Katherine Tumilty, Barry Smith, Kathryn Everitt and Tariq Mahmood MBE

Absence from the following Members was noted: Luthaneal Adams, Nasir Mubasher, Sansar Narwal, Pastor Aloysius Peter, Kamal Siddiqui, Bal Degun, Terry Riches and Councillor Ruck.

The clerk provided an update on some membership changes:

- Councillor Jacqueline McArdle had stepped down from SACRE due to personal circumstances.
- Councillor Katherine Tumilty was currently unwell and it was not known at what point she would return.
- This was the last meeting for Karen Van Coevorden due to her new role at St Paul's Cathedral which had made it difficult to commit to the Havering SACRE, however assurance was given that Karen would remain involved in RE and education in a professional capacity.
- Kathryn Everitt was also looking to step down from Havering SACRE as she was no longer teaching; Kathryn would remain until an alternative Group C member had been identified.

SACRE members wished all departing members well and thanked them for their support and contribution to the Havering SACRE.

## **2. NEW OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

It was noted that Sarah Yeneralski (teacher at Harold Court Primary) would be joining a SACRE meeting to observe in the near future.

## **3. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

It was noted that the current Chair had confirmed that she would not be looking to run as Chair for a further term.

There were no parties who expressed an interest in either the Chair or Vice Chair role. It was therefore agreed to defer the decision until the autumn term.

**ACTION: HGS (for the agenda)**

#### **4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2024 AND 24 FEBRUARY 2025 AND MATTERS ARISING**

- 4.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2024 were received and agreed; these had been reviewed in detail on 24 February 2025.
- 4.2. The minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2025 were received and agreed.
- 4.3. Matters arising from the minutes, (not included elsewhere on the agenda), were as noted:
- 4.3.1. Substitute Members (Minute 2, refers): The clerk confirmed that she had advised new SACRE Members about sending representatives.
  - 4.3.2. 5 December 2025 (Minute 4.1, refers): The clerk confirmed that the Minutes had been amended as requested.
  - 4.3.3. Youth SACRE (Minute 4.2.1, refers): Cllr Taylor had been due to attend on 19 June 2025 however the meeting had been cancelled due to the hot weather.
  - 4.3.4. Report (Minute 6, refers): The national update report had been uploaded onto the HES portal.
  - 4.3.5. Ofsted presentation (Minute 7, refers): The Ofsted presentation had been shared as agreed.
  - 4.3.6. Determination process (Minute 10, refers): The proposed process had been agreed.

#### **5. UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY**

JDC reported that a training day had taken place in March with 11 teachers in attendance from Havering. JDC commented that it was positive to see the strong representation from Havering on the call.

It was noted that moving forward, a member of Group C would be asked to provide a short update on any local activity.

#### **6. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

*George Prinn joined the meeting at 5.40pm.*

JDC agreed to share a copy of the report with HSIS so that it could be uploaded onto the HES portal.

JDC referred to her report highlighting the Curriculum and Assessment review which was being led by Becky Francis. The RE Community had

submitted a lot of evidence to the review and feedback had been received that the group was aware of the national disparities in terms of religious education. Clarification was provided by JDC, that the issue was not due to the different syllabus' in place but that there was no general agreement regarding the standards that the syllabus had to aspire to. JDC reflected that Havering pupils received a strong RE education as the Agreed Syllabus was of high quality, however ideally, this would be the case across the country. It was expected that an update would be published in the autumn term.

*Ruth Everitt joined the meeting at 5.45pm.*

JDC encouraged members of SACRE to complete the training required to speak in schools or welcome pupils into their places of worship. The report included details on how to access the online training and how to make the most of such visits. Teachers might also find the training useful.

## **7. SECONDARY SCHOOL OUTCOMES MONITORING**

The secondary school outcomes data had been shared at the previous meeting and SACRE Members had been tasked to review the information provided and identify any perceived areas of improvement required or where schools needed to be congratulated for their good practice.

R Everett referred to the data relating to The Frances Bardsley and advised that the Diocese was already working with the school especially regarding provision at Key Stage 5.

Cllr Taylor referred to 3 schools which had outstanding practice and suggested that it would be worth contacting the school to see what they did differently so other schools could learn from their provision. JDC agreed however highlighted that the outstanding element referred to the overall Ofsted judgement and not RE specifically.

Caution was urged when looking at the data that sometimes it could look like there was no provision for RE in place, however this could be due to the school calling it something different; hence why the GCSE outcomes data was more reliable than the school workforce data. It was highlighted, that school websites would provide further information regarding names of subjects.

SACRE Members Champion; a high level of pupils had taken the GCSE and the school had one of the highest number of hours, however had lower outcomes. JDC explained that the context of each school needed to be known before judgements could be made and that further exploration of the results in other subjects would show whether RE was the outlier. If it

was, then SACRE Members could write to the school to see if there was anything that SACRE could do to support.

The Vice Chair shared a concern regarding Redden Court which had cut ties with its local church. JDC replied that a letter could be sent to the Headteacher again to see if there was any support needed.

JDC advised that due to a change in contract, she would not be able to write the letters on behalf of SACRE, however could share the bank of letters which could be used by members as a template. It was agreed that any letters sent needed to be a SACRE Members' decision. Cllr Taylor agreed to help draft the letters to be reviewed at the next meeting.

**ACTION: JDC / Cllr Taylor**

## **8. WORKING PARTY UPDATE – PRIMARY RE CONFERENCE**

The notes from the working party meeting held on 15 April 2025 were shared.

It was questioned whether the conference welcomed 2 pupils per school, if it was affordable for the schools to find cover for that member of staff. JDC replied that in the past, schools had brought along 5-6 pupils and if a teacher was not available, had taken an LSA.

The importance of sharing a date with schools was shared especially if looking to hold the conference in spring 2026.

JDC suggested that the HSIS admin team might be able to share the information with the Headteachers and RE Subject Leaders via email. J Fox advised that a new Minister would be joining at the end of July and therefore although it would be fine, final confirmation of the venue would need to wait until their arrival. It was suggested that the working party did not need to wait until the next SACRE meeting to share the information once confirmed. Potential dates were discussed; week commencing 9 March 2026 was agreed as the best fit avoiding other religious dates in the calendar.

Another suggestion was made that SACRE should look to apply for any suitable grants to fund the conference.

*George Prinn left the meeting at 6.30pm.*

Clarification was sought regarding risk assessments and safeguarding processes and procedures around the event. DBS checks for those running stands would also need to be checked. JDC replied that the working party could liaise with Susan Sutton and/or Amanda Jackson

regarding this. The working party would arrange another meeting to discuss the event details.

**ACTION: Working party**

**9. SCHOOL WEBSITE MONITORING**

SACRE Members agreed to complete the outstanding website audits by the end of the academic year.

**ACTION: SACRE Members**

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

JDC advised that the Agreed Syllabus completed in collaboration with Redbridge SACRE, had gone to Havering cabinet later than Redbridge. Therefore Redbridge only had until 2026, however Havering had until 2027. The first step in the review of the Agreed Syllabus was to ask teachers to complete a survey; it would be useful for Havering and Redbridge to undertake this exercise at the same time. At the next meeting an update would be brought back about the timelines agreed by Redbridge to see if this also worked for Havering.

**ACTION: JDC**

**11. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Meeting dates for the 2025-26 academic year would be shared with the minutes.

**ACTION: HGS**

*The meeting closed at 6.45pm.*

Chair.....

Date.....

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING  
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**

**The meeting took place at the Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest**

Present

**Representing Christian denominations and other religious dominations  
and beliefs (Group A):**

Wendy Brice-Thompson (WBT), Roman Catholic  
Peter Feinson (PF), Baptist  
Jenny Fox (JF), Salvation Army  
Dr John Lester (JL), Baha'i faith  
Tariq Mahmood (TM), Sunni Muslim  
Corinne Simmons (CS) Romford Synagogue  
John Smailes (JS), Evangelical Free Church  
Barry Smith (BS), United Reform Church

**Representing the Church of England (Group B):**

None.

**Representing teachers (Group C):**

Kathryn Everett\* (KE)

**Representing the Local Authority (Group D):**

Councillor David Taylor\* (DT)

**Co-opted Member**

None.

**Observer**

Sarah Yeneralski (SY)

**Professional adviser:**

Julia Diamond Conway (JDC) – R.E. Advisor

Joanne McLauchlan – Clerk, Havering Governor Services

*\*for part of the meeting*

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

In the absence of the Chair, JL welcomed everyone to the meeting. JL acknowledged the recent incidents at the Manchester Synagogue, the Sussex Mosque and at the Church of the Latter-Day Saints in the USA. The Chair stated that SACRE was committed to bringing faiths together in harmony and quoted Confucius '*if you fall into the river and are drowning, are you going to worry about who saves you?*'

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Katherine Tumilty, George Prinn, Pastor Aloysius Peter, Stephanie Elnor, Dawn Ladbrook and Sidra Naeem.

Absence of the following Members was noted: Om Dhir, Sanar Narwal, Kamal Siddiqui, Nasir Mubashar, Luthaneal Adams, Ruth Everett, Bal Degun, Terry Riches, Stephanie Elnor, and Councillor Philip Ruck.

It was noted that Cllr David Taylor needed to leave at 7pm and Sarah Yeneralski at 7.30pm.

It was noted that the meeting was not quorate.

The ongoing absence of Sansar Narwal, Pastor Peter Aloysius Peter, Luthaneal Adams, Terry Riches, Bal Degun and Om Dhir was discussed. It was agreed that HGS would contact the individuals with regard to their intentions. If no response was received, they would be removed at the next meeting.

**ACTION: HGS**

DT informed members that he would not be standing for re-election as a Councillor. However, from a faith point of view, he was interested in continuing as a member of SACRE. DT was a member of the Pentecostal Church and was also a member of the National Board of Religious Leaders.

SACRE Members recommended the appointment of David Taylor to Group A once his term as a councillor came to an end.

**ACTION: HGS**

## 2. NEW OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Julia Diamond-Conway (JDC) introduced Sarah Yeneralski, who was a new SACRE member and the intention was that she would join Committee Group C. Sarah was currently the R.E. Lead in a local Primary School and

it was hoped that members would have the opportunity to learn more about the curriculum delivered in the school setting.

As the meeting was not quorate, the appointment would be approved at the next meeting.

**ACTION: HGS (agenda)**

### **3. ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR**

Members noted that the term of office for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions was two years.

Wendy Brice-Thompson stated that she was willing to chair this meeting and the next one. John Lester stated that he was willing to take on the role of Vice-Chair. Members agreed the appointments.

*W Brice-Thompson took the Chair.*

It was agreed to move to agenda item 7, ANNUAL REPORT 2025

### **7. ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25**

The draft Annual Report 2024-25 was received. It was noted that this should be sent to the DfE and NASACRE by the end of the year. Questions were invited. Cllr David Taylor asked if the report included efforts to increase the membership as meetings were regularly not quorate; a strategy was needed. JDC reported that some SACREs allowed time at every meeting to discuss how to increase the membership. It was agreed to include how to increase membership on the agenda for the next meeting. Members were asked to think about ways to do this.

**ACTION: Members/HGS (agenda)**

DT stated that it was worrying that the attendance of Local Authority members was not very good. The Chair suggested that there should be a conversation with Councillors about expectations before they joined.

*Kathryn Everett arrived.*

Those present approved the Annual Report 2024-25; however, the meeting was not quorate. JDC suggested asking Group B members if they were also in agreement.

### **4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24 JUNE 2025 AND MATTERS ARISING**

4.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2025 were received, agreed, and would be signed by the Chair. Arrangements for the

signing of minutes needed to be decided. HGS would contact the Chair.

**ACTION: HGS**

4.2. There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not included elsewhere on the agenda.

**5. UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY**

JDC reported that she was running a course for 17 Subject Leaders; twilight sessions would also be available. SY had joined one in the previous week. The activity could be done in school if it was not possible to visit a place of worship. Schools could use virtual tours, as well as looking at how to utilise staff and parents of different faiths.

JDC had conducted an Evangelical and Baptist tour, and these were still available on the portal. SY added that teachers had access to the website. JDC had also delivered a training session for staff in the previous week.

**6. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

JDC presumed that everyone had received the written report and invited questions and comments. DT said he was intrigued by the large number of pupils with SEND within the Local Authority and the establishment of new SEND Schools. There was a need to be mindful that numbers in area were high when compared with the position London-wide.

JDC said that nationally, children with SEND in mainstream schools, were often taken out of e.g. R.E lessons for interventions to catch up on other subjects. The Ofsted view was that access to e.g. R.E., Music and Art should not be stopped. Children were entitled to then and might enjoy these subjects.

DT said that the experience of faith and religion could benefit children with SEND; for example, calming prayer and the structure provided by faith. JDC stated that there were children, who struggled with Maths and English, but did very well in R.E. Dr. Lester (JL) said that for those children who found Maths and English difficult, which could lead to low esteem, may realise early on in school that they could excel in R.E. DT commented that the understanding of R.E, provided context why people were different and this could be celebrated.

JDC suggested that if schools were surveyed by SACRE, the question should be asked what happens with SEND provision and how could SACRE help. DT asked when schools were visiting places of worship, could the sites accommodate children with SEND; where these places

ready and did the faith groups have programmes to engage with schools. JW questioned how this information could be gathered from places of worship. JS said that if a visit was to be arranged, the needs of children with SEND should be taken into account when planning. CS stated that for visits to the Romford Synagogue, there was always a check for children with SEND so that arrangements could be made to accommodate them. This group was also given extra attention during the visit.

It was acknowledged that not all places of worship had special facilities. DT suggested that SACRE members could become involved and act as bridge by visiting schools and identifying places of worship that could accommodate children with SEND. It was noted that places of worship should have their own risk assessment as they would have children with needs within its community.

JDC stated that it would be really useful for schools to know which places of worship could accommodate children with needs. JDC informed members that a church in Redbridge had a sensory room, which could accommodate a class. JDC stated that it would be nice for teachers if SACRE collected the information. BS stated that all places of worship should have risk assessment in place along with a Safeguarding Policy.

*Cllr David Taylor left the meeting.*

BS commented that children were withdrawn from R.E.; it was not part of the national curriculum but had to be taught. BS questioned where R.E. fitted within the philosophy of delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. JDC said that there should be compulsion for children to be there. However, parents often requested withdrawal from R.E. if their child was weak in Maths or English. The position was tricky; Headteachers tried to avoid the withdrawal from R.E. There was now a focus on adaptations within the classroom along with the delivery of Quality First Teaching. There was as strong focused, particularly from Ofsted, on the broad and balanced curriculum and it would not be as acceptable to take children out of e.g. R.E. or P.E. PF commented that it was more of a problem in secondary schools. JDC acknowledged that the situation was quite SERIOUS but did not know if it was more of a problem in primary or secondary schools. JDC said that parents could withdraw their child, but they did not have to give a reason. Parents used the right of withdrawal in ways that could make R.E. professionals and SACRE uncomfortable. JDC stated that the R.E. lessons were education and not worship.

JDC asked if HGS could send the PowerPoint to SACRE members.

**ACTION: HGS**

JDC informed members that the final curriculum and assessment report was available, which acknowledged the importance of R.E. JDC highlighted the following:

Page 107, *“R.E is a place where they encounter different beliefs’*.

Page 108, *‘given the role of religion and values, access to R.E. continues to be vital’*. This was a more modern take on R.E.

Page 109, *‘We are of the view the importance of R.E. was not reflected in its standing in the curriculum.*

The report also suggested that R.E. should be moved into the national curriculum to prevent further diminishment. JDC commented that it would be helpful if the number of syllabi across the country was reduced. R.E. should be given parity with other subjects; the syllabus in Havering was good. However, in some areas, it was difficult to keep SACRE running.

The report did want to see R.E. included in the national curriculum but it was unrealistic to expect this to happen fast. The report recommended that the government invited the R.E. sector to form a ‘task & finish’ group. SACRE may be asked for their opinions at some point. This group may examine whether a new R.E. curriculum could be drafted. The viability would be explored over the next few months with the aim of R.E. becoming part of the national curriculum; however, the report did not say that this would definitely happen.

JDC reported that one of the suggestions the commission had made was that the approach should be the baseline requirement and not all of the content.

JDC stated that the DfE should consider the legislation around R.E. and what the function of SACRE would be if R.E was part of the national curriculum; there might be some additional duties.

JDC also questioned if R.E. should be included in Key Stage 5; the government response to this was needed. The government would be guided by the sector and so a clear, shared position was needed from the sector. The consensus from the sector was that everyone needed to be flexible. The government would consult on what would be included in the curriculum and legislative framework. The earliest any new curriculum could be in place would be 2028.

JDC invited questions and comments.

The Chair suggested that members should read the report and bring questions to the next meeting. It was noted that the government’s

response to the Curriculum & Assessment Review was due in November 2025. KE asked why this was so sudden and JDC responded that no changes had been considered since 1999. The review had been asked to look at all subjects, not just R.E. and had completed the task thoroughly. Scoping would be conducted by Dr V Ogden, who was a previous Headteacher in Tower Hamlets. PF noted that the review was taking place at the same time as the move towards 'Religion & World Views.' JDC agreed with PF and acknowledged that there might be a change in name; should the subject be called Religion & World Views?

## **8. WORKING PARTY UPDATE – PRIMARY R.E. CONFERENCE**

WBT noted that JS had sent emails, although JS informed members that the individual had left, and he was not sure who to contact. JF reported that the proposed dates to host the conference were 18<sup>th</sup> March or 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026, although it was likely there would be a teachers' CPD day on 25<sup>th</sup> March. T Mahmood, S Neam, and W Brice-Thompson were the members of the working party.

JF stated that there was a need to make sure the event would be worthwhile. JL stated that contact needed to be made with schools. JDC asked how robust the plans for the day were and JS responded that there would be tables by faith with activities. S Neam had the materials. JF asked how feasible it would be to have 2 children from each school arriving at 9.30am; this could be a challenge. JF suggested inviting a couple of schools or a whole class; the event should be good. KE stated that schools would need to have clear confirmed plans. It was suggested to postpone to 2026-27.

JDC informed members that the Havering R.E. Subject Leaders group would be meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at CEME and suggested that a member could attend and ask leaders what would be useful to include. An itinerary could then be drawn up; Year 5 children would be invited. JDC stated that she had attended sessions in other LAs where 6 children with a teacher had attended and had then fed back when they returned to school. JS suggested postponing due to the timeframe and JDC stated that it would be better to agree the itinerary and then set a date. TM said that he was very keen to attend in a supporting role.

JDC had attended an R.E. Day in Cumbria and quite a few SACRE representatives had attended. The teachers had time to meet with the representatives, who could then arrange to visit schools. The alternative was to attend the session and stay for a break; this was a great way for SACRE members and teachers to network. Timings for the day would be worked out so that members could attend.

JS asked if the working party needed to meet again and WBT responded said this was up to the working party members. JF said that other members were welcome to join. JDC stated that there needed to be a plan that could be sent to schools. The Working Party (WBT, SN, TM, JL and JS) would need to produce the plan. JS would look at SN's minutes. TM would contact SN.

**ACTION: JS & TM**

It was suggested that SN could present about the Primary Conference.

## **9. SCHOOL WEBSITE MONITORING**

HGS had shared templates of letters with SACRE members, which could be sent to schools based on website audits or their outcomes. SACRE Members agreed to complete the outstanding website audits by the end of the academic year.

**ACTION: SACRE Members**

## **10. AGREED SYLLABUS**

JDC stated that the syllabus was getting older and was near to review. Next time, JDC would conduct a survey with schools to establish what they liked and what they would like change. JDC would action this in January 2026 and the results would be available for the next meeting. The London Borough of Redbridge usually joined, and it was noted that they were thinking to adopting the Religion & World Views approach.

R.E. Today had some syllabi available, which were off the peg but cheap:

- Thematic
- Systematic
- Religion & World Views

LBR was interested in the Religion & World Views syllabus.

JDC advised members that the LBR was holding a meeting via Zoom on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026 6.30pm to 8.30pm with Stephen Pett, who had written the Religion & World Views syllabus. JDC suggested that it would be useful for SACRE members to attend, regardless of which syllabus was chosen. JDC had asked for all SACRE members to be invited to the session. The session was free and other neighbouring SACREs would be attending.

WBT asked how members should confirm their attendance and JDC said it would be useful to confirm as 6 Local Authorities had been invited.

JDC asked if HGS could send the Zoom link details to SACRE members.

**ACTION: HGS**

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no other business items to discuss.

**12. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Future meeting dates were noted:

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

Members were asked to inform WBT if they were able to offer a venue for the next meeting. TM would send details to WBT.

**ACTION: TM**

*The meeting closed at 7.50pm.*

Chair.....

Date.....

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING  
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

**The meeting took place online via MS Teams**

Present

**Representing Christian denominations and other religious dominations  
and beliefs (Group A):**

Wendy Brice-Thompson (WBT), Roman Catholic  
Peter Feinson (PF), Baptist  
Jenny Fox (JF), Salvation Army  
Dr John Lester (JL), Baha'i faith  
Tariq Mahmood (TM), Sunni Muslim  
George Prinn (GP), Humanist  
Barry Smith (BS), United Reform Church

**Representing the Church of England (Group B):**

Stephanie Elner (SE)  
Ruth Evertt\* (RE)

**Representing teachers (Group C):**

None.

**Representing the Local Authority (Group D):**

None.

**Co-opted Member**

Sidra Naeem (SN)

**Observer**

Sarah Yeneralski (SY)

**Professional adviser:**

Julia Diamond Conway (JDC) – R.E. Advisor

Joanne McLauchlan – Clerk, Havering Governor Services

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Katherine Tumilty, Corinne Simmons and Kathryn Everett. John Smailes had resigned as of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

It was noted that Ruth Everett needed to leave at 6.30pm.

It was noted that the meeting was not quorate.

## **2. NEW OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

There were no new members in attendance. However, it was noted that as the meeting was not quorate, the appointment of Sarah Yeneralski to Group C could not be approved.

## **3. SACRE MEMBERSHIP REVIEW**

HGS had contacted the following SACRE members regarding attendance Sansar Narwal, Pastor Aloysius Peter, Luthaneal Adams, Bal Degum and Terry Riches.

Pastor Aloysius Peter had responded that he would be able to return from April 2026. Luthaneal Adams had been unwell but wished to continue. No response had been received from Sansar Narwal, Bal Degum and Terry Riches. SACRE members agreed to remove them from the membership.

**ACTION: HGS**

JDC recommended that the Local Authority should be advised that a new Hindu representative was needed for Group A as well as new members for Group C (Teachers).

**ACTION: HGS**

Ruth Everett informed members that she was retiring from her post at the Diocese and had agreed to continue as a SACRE member. RE would seek other Church of England representatives within Havering.

JDC suggested that national bodies or local community representatives could be contacted to seek new members. JDC acknowledged that it had been difficult to find a member from the Hindu community and suggested contacting the Hindu Education Board. JDC would send the contact email address to the Chair and HGS.

**ACTION: JDC/Chair/HGS**

JDC reported that she had shared the resignation of J Smailes with Dawn Ladbrook. JDC asked if Dawn Ladbrook would be the representative for the Evangelical Free Church or would this be shared with another representative. The Chair agreed to find out.

**ACTION: Chair (WBT)**

#### 4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025 AND 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025 AND MATTERS ARISING

4.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025 had been received and agreed at the previous meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

However, as the meeting was not quorate, the minutes could not be formally approved and so would be presented at the next meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026.

**ACTION: HGS (agenda)**

4.2. The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were received and agreed.

However, as the meeting was not quorate, the minutes could not be approved and so would be presented at the next meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026.

**ACTION: HGS (agenda)**

The Chair reminded members that an election for the position of Chair would be required at the next meeting.

**ACTION: HGS (agenda)**

4.3. Matters arising from the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> November (not included elsewhere on the agenda, were:

4.3.1. SACRE Membership (minute 1, refers): Members noted the recommendation to appoint David Taylor to Group A at the next meeting, once his term as a councillor came to an end.

**ACTION: HGS**

4.3.2. National Developments in Religious Education (minute 6, refers): The presentation had been circulated to members with the meeting papers.

4.3.3. Zoom Link for January Training (minute 9, refers): The link had been shared with members.

#### 5. UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY

JDC reported that there would be a training day at CEME on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026; Islam, Judaism, and ways of knowing would be included. JDC invited feedback on religion and views and the termly twilight session. Peter Feinson reported that the session had questioned what 'world views' were and the context. There had been a discussion on the context and approach of world views. The Religious Education Council (REC) had been commissioned a project to resources for the national content standard. World Views had always existed, but an intellectual framework

had now been drawn up. However, individual experiences, desires and identity shaped an individual's view and family life also contributed. PF commented that World Views were like eyes and nobody stands nowhere. The book, *The Universe Next Door*, was referenced by PF and it was highlighted that the World Views approach was not an entirely new idea. Textbook versions often included content that could be considered objectionable and unpalatable.

The Ofsted categories of knowing were questioned and then explained by JDC and examples given: an organised individual may have a world view that was religious or non-religious, for example, the hierarchical structure of Islam was a world view organised in a specific way. Also, as individuals, we had our own world views, such as, having grown up with a sister. However, an individual's experiences might lead them to be different. Individuals could be of the same branch of a religion but had a different view. Individual world views could affect an organised world view. For example, 2 individuals with the same religion living nearby each other as adults, one may be conservative and the other may like the religion, but it may not be as important to them and so only celebrated the main festivals. JDC invited questions and there were none.

PF commented that there could be several views for one religion and JDC said that this was probably the case with several religions. JDC said that within World Views, children could not be taught one stereotype, for example, Christian or Humanist. JDC invited questions and there were none.

JDC explained that World Views would move away from stereotypes, the differences within religions would be studied and the actual reality considered.

The Chair invited questions.

TM commented that the media influenced the view of religions and clouded the position. To have an authentic view, as opposed to that presented by the media, it would take a lot of work. JDC acknowledged this interesting point and explained that the commission planned to hold public sessions on interfaith relations. JDC had attended a group session run by Ruth Peacock of the Religion & Media Centre to help journalists with their reporting on religion and provide knowledge. JDC stated that some members of faith groups had stories to share, which journalists were not aware of.

TM commented that the journalists would have to have some knowledge or interest in the religion to be able to report accurately and also human

weakness could lead to some unconscious bias. This comment was acknowledged by the Chair.

## **6. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

JDC stated that the report from the Curriculum & Assessment Review had been published and had advised that R.E. would be well-placed in the National Curriculum. The government had set up a task and finish group where stage 1 would involve consensus building, i.e. was it a possibility? JDC asked if the SACRE had been invited to the meeting with the head of the group on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026. JDC would forward the details to HGS (M Morgan).

**ACTION: JDC**

Dr Vanessa Ogden (Leader of Task & Finish Group) was running a session for SACRE members to discuss the inclusion of R.E in the national curriculum. If the outcome was to include R.E, this would lead to some changes in the way SACREs were run. The next phase would be consensus building. If the consensus was to include R.E in the national curriculum, there would then drafting and testing of what would be included. The outcome of the findings of the first stage would then form the basis of a national content standard, which would be available on the R.E. Council website. There would then be changes to legislation and R.E. would be part of the national curriculum and the role of SACRE discussed. The final stage would be the implementation of R.E. in the national curriculum.

JDC informed member that there could be some restraints with regard to the EBacc and pupil choice. R.E. GCSE was not part of the EBacc and so there could be a decline in the uptake of R.E. GCSE across the UK. In terms of Attainment 8, there would be a new version where R.E. would sit with Humanities. There was a plan to review GCSE content for all subjects, and the new R.E. GCSE would be ready in September 2029 or 2030. There would then be changes to AS and A levels.

In terms of informal R.E., a group called Theos had been formed to look at it. The group would look at how pupils learnt about religion and values through their daily lives. Provision varied widely. Havering was a diverse area and offered more natural encounters and interfaith relationships than other areas of the UK. JDC informed members that there had been a supreme court ruling in Northern Ireland linked to R.E. where a non-religious family had taken a school to court and the outcome had been that the parents could withdraw the child from R.E. lessons. JDC stated that parents had a right to withdraw their child and did not have to give a reason. It was noted that schools stated on their website that parents had the right to withdraw their child from R.E. without reason. If parents did exercise this right, a conversation could be had with parents to clarify which part of the curriculum the parents wished to withdraw their child from. Parents could not be asked for reason either verbally or by letter.

The Secondary School survey had been published and the percentage of specialist R.E staff and non-specialist staff had not changed. Schools were more compliant in Key Stage 3 than Key Stage 4. The outcomes also indicated that barriers to staying in post were workload the low profile of the subject for 39% of those surveyed. Specialist R.E. teachers were supporting non-specialists.



The NASACRE (National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education) conference & AGM would take place in Liverpool on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026, and Dr. Vanessa Ogden would be speaking along with C Alderton, CEO Faith & Belief Forum. Bookings were open.

The West Hill Award would now be bi-annually rather than yearly to give SAVREs more time to plan and apply. The deadline for the next round was 28<sup>th</sup> February 2027.

JDC acknowledge that Ramadan would be starting soon. JDC wished members a blessed, happy, and peaceful Ramada. Eid would be 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026. JDC recommended that members looked at the timetables for local Mosques.

Jewish culture month would take place from 16<sup>th</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026 and would be a celebration of Jewish contribution, culture, and community.

The SACRE had subscribed to the NASACRE training and JDC highlighted the following sessions:

- 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026: Being an Effective SACRE Clerk
- 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026:  How might a SACRE want to use freely available resources to support high quality RE in their area?
- 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026:  NASACRE in conversation for Chairs & Vice-Chairs

JDC invited questions and there were none. The Chair thanked JDC for the updates.

TM thanked JDC for the wishes for a happy Ramadan. TM would be hosting a multi-faith representation on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and he or Sidra Nasseem would circulate the details. All were welcome and TM invited members to please come and enjoy.

A member asked if there had been a ruling on Collective Worship and JDC responded that this was under review at a high level and a decision had not yet been made.

JL queried the meeting at CEME on 17<sup>th</sup> March and JDC explained that it was training day for teachers and subject leaders. M Morgan had sent an email to SACRE members asking if they would like to attend. JDC had not planned a specific SACRE session, but members were welcome to come and meet the teachers.

SY asked if the survey had only been for primary schools and would it be emailed out. JDC responded that it was on the website and had been emailed. JDC would endeavour to send this on, and it would be helpful if as many schools as possible provided feedback.

SY stated that she would be attending the training on 17<sup>th</sup> March as a teacher.

Further questions were invited and there were none.

## **7. WORKING PARTY UPDATE – PRIMARY R.E. CONFERENCE**

JL suggested that suggestions for the content for the conference could be raised with teachers at the training day at CEME on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The Chair would be leading a Christianity Workshop and recommended that she met with JL to discuss content. JL would contact the Chair.

**ACTION: JL**

The Chair suggested a meeting of the working party in advance of the next SACRE meeting and JDC acknowledged that this was a good idea. Good planning would lead to a good event and schools needed to know the content.

**ACTION: Chair**

## **8. SCHOOL WEBSITE MONITORING UPDATE**

JDC reported that in the past, members had met at school to conduct the audits of the school websites. At present, the auditing at home was not working and so an alternative approach could be considered. The Chair state that the audits could be conducted at home, but members needed to know what to do.

TM asked for the timing of the training day on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026, and JDC confirmed that it was 9am to 4pm at CEME. JDC stated that a session for SACRE members to be in discussion with groups had not been planned. JDC invited members to come along and join in and contribute to the day. If members did attend, if there was anything they would like to do (or not do), there would be an opportunity to tell the schools.

TM said that he had given talks at Gidea Park Primary School and a local Catholic School. TM was interested in school visits and would like to engage. SE thanked TM for his visit to St Edward's, which had been very good.

## 9. AGREED SYLLABUS SURVEY UPDATE

JDC reported that she had had a meeting with S Sutton (Havering Head of Education Quality & Effectiveness) and the next step was to approach T Cook (Havering Director of Education) to establish if a survey could be conducted; a response was awaited.

If agreed, the intention would be to conduct the survey before the next meeting so that the outcomes would be available for discussion. JDC, S Sutton and T Cook were mindful that R.E. could become part of the national curriculum and so a gentle start was needed.

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other business items to discuss.

JL reported that he had attended a meeting at the Town Hall on Tuesday and had also attended an interesting talk on unconscious bias. TM had attended the Havering Health Improvement Group.

## 8. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

Members were asked to inform WBT and M Morgan if they were able to offer a venue for the next meeting, either a school or a place of worship. It would be good to meet in person.

**ACTION: All members**

The Chair thanked JDC and JM and members for their attendance and contributions.

*The meeting closed at 7.11pm.*

C

## National RE Updates for SACRE from RE Today - Summer 2026

### New-style Ofsted reports: what do they say about religious education?

Nikki McGee from the NATRE executive committee has reported on the mentions of RE in the first 160 new-style Ofsted reports. She concludes that around half of reports on schools without a religious character refer to teaching of religious beliefs or faiths. This suggests that RE is no longer as overlooked as it has been.

Number of new-style Ofsted reports up to 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2026		Explicit mentions of RE	
Primary	118	58	49%
Secondary	39	17	44%
Cross Phase	3	1	33%
Total	160	77	48%

Very few references appear under the curriculum and teaching heading of the reports. Most of these references are under the personal development and wellbeing section. Some references are made to pupils lacking sufficient knowledge or being unable to recall what they have been taught.

Overall, half of reports of schools rated 'strong standard' (the second from top grade on new Ofsted reports) for personal development and wellbeing include explicit teaching about faith or religious beliefs.

- It is encouraging that new reports recognise the important contribution of RE in preparing pupils for life
- It is concerning that the lack of focus on RE as a rigorous curriculum subject with its own distinctive knowledge and disciplinary approaches might lead to schools diluting the academic depth of the subject and absorb it into broader pastoral or values-based provision.

Read Nikki's full report for NATRE here: <https://natre.org.uk/news/what-are-the-new-style-ofsted-reports-saying-about-religious-education/>

### National Policy Paper: Building a Cohesive Society

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government have published a policy paper: [Protecting What Matters: Towards a more confident, cohesive, and resilient United Kingdom](#). The paper sets out a cross-government strategy to strengthen social cohesion, resilience and public confidence. It aims to do this in a range of ways, including by:

- reinforcing shared values and local pride
- investing in places and grassroots projects
- improving prevention and early intervention to reduce hate, extremism and social division
- using the Online Safety Act to curb harmful online content and algorithms

- enhancing local-central partnership and protections for vulnerable groups.

The paper mentions the place of RE in helping young people to understand how shared values shape the UK, and the role of SACREs in celebrating faith and belief communities and their role in community cohesion.

### Jerusalem Trust Summer Funding Round 2026 Now Open

The Jerusalem Trust's Small Grants to Schools Scheme supports the teaching of Christianity within Religious Education. The scheme operates by providing schools with grants of up to £600 to purchase Christianity resources for use in RE lessons.

The scheme is open to state-funded schools in England and Wales.

Secondary school grants are currently still available this summer term. Schools should read the FAQs and the application criteria prior to submitting their funding request which can be accessed at [www.regrants.org.uk](http://www.regrants.org.uk). Primary school grants are no longer open for summer term due to high demand.

### The NASACRE Conference and AGM

This year's conference theme is: *SACREs – bringing communities together*, the conference and AGM will be held in Liverpool on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Keynote speeches will be given by Carrie Alderton, CEO of the Faith and Belief forum and Vanessa Ogden. In addition to the main conference programme on 18<sup>th</sup> May, there will be eight helpful online workshops in the week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June.

To find out more and book a spot, please use this link: <https://nasacre.org.uk/conference-and-agm/>

### Westhill/NASACRE Awards

The next round of these awards will be made in February 2027. SACREs wishing to apply are encouraged to start thinking about what they might like to achieve now. Organisers are especially looking for projects promoting unity, community and diversity. SACREs can bid for up to £12 000 for projects which will be completed by summer 2029.

NASACRE's website currently gives examples of four projects which were funded last year. These are:

**“Barnet:** This project will seek to identifying missing nuance by examining a wide range of resources.

**Camden:** This project will see pupils engaging in inter-faith conferences, and training students in Y12 and 13 to be able to share their beliefs in primary schools.

**Haringey:** This project seeks to provide the children with better experiences of RE by developing workshop and community celebration opportunities, materials, ‘living voice’ videos, transcripts and activities.

**Sunderland:** Exploring Faith and Diversity through Art will deliver a series of art based workshops to explore religious stories and symbols.”

To find out more, please go to: <https://nasacre.org.uk/westhill-nasacre-awards/> .

## NATRE Survey

The National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) is currently conducting its biannual primary survey. This is the chance for all those involved in delivering RE to pupils aged 4-11 to make sure the reality of RE in the primary classroom is heard where it counts. This evidence is used directly with government and Ofsted to influence decisions on curriculum, training and support. Previous surveys have exposed gaps in RE time and training, and driven national attention as a result. With major decisions about the future of RE underway, primary teachers must not be invisible.

All participating schools will receive a free NATRE resource and be entered into a prize draw.

It is helpful to have as many primary schools participating as possible, so SACRE may choose to make schools in the Local Authority aware of this survey. The survey itself takes just a few minutes, is completely anonymous, and is open until 31 July. Every response makes a difference.

To complete the survey, please follow the link at: <https://natre.org.uk/news/your-voice-matters-shape-the-future-of-primary-re/>

## Jewish Culture Month

Jewish Culture month will last from 16<sup>th</sup> May to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026. This coincides with Sivan, the third month in the Jewish calendar. It celebrates British Jewish culture, community and creativity. So far, over 100 events are planned across the country, spanning food, comedy, art, architecture, fashion and more. National institutions spotlighting their Jewish treasures will include the British Museum, Tate Britain, Tate Modern, National Portrait Gallery, V&A, Museum of the Home and the Science Museum. Events are happening up and down the country, from Manchester (home to Britain’s second largest Jewish community), to Norfolk, Newcastle, Stockport, Oxford, Leeds, Liverpool, Bath, Cambridge, Margate and many more.

To find out more, please go to: <https://jewishculturemonth.org.uk/>

SACRE may wish to advise schools that there are specific Jewish Culture Month in Schools resources to help in planning for this month: [Jewish Culture Month in schools | Jewish Culture Month](#) .

## Inter Faith Week 2026

Save the date! Inter Faith Week 2026 is planned to take place between 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November. It is hoped that this will build on the successes of Inter Faith Week 2025, which are detailed in

this report: <https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/the-inter-faith-week-report-community-together-we-serve> .

2025 saw an increase in school involvement with Inter Faith Week, with resources from the ifw4schools website used with over 665 000 pupils across the country. SACRE may wish to let schools know that over the coming months that the <https://www.ifw4schools.co.uk/> website will be updated with information, resources and ideas related to Inter Faith Week 2026, so that school staff can plan for this week ahead of time.

## NASACRE Training

In addition to the conference and AGM, NASACRE is offering a webinar this term to people who are new to SACRE. The session is entitled *So, you've joined your local SACRE...* and will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026, from 6:30pm-8pm. For more information, please go to <https://nasacre.org.uk/training-and-support/> .

Please remember that recordings and presentations of some past NASACRE training sessions can be found at: <https://nasacre.org.uk/training-and-support/presentations-recordings/> .

## Courses from RE Today

### Primary Phase Courses

#### **Exploring Sikh Worldviews through Authentic Voices**

**12<sup>th</sup> May 2026 1.00 pm – 3.30 pm**

**Debbie Yeomans – National RE Adviser**

This engaging RE CPD session supports primary teachers to build confidence and clarity in teaching about Sikhi. It includes a clear subject-knowledge overview, ready-to-use lesson ideas, insights from a Sikh guest speaker sharing lived experience, and four sample lesson sequences. Participants receive a free curriculum book with practical resources, and the session ends with a Q&A to deepen understanding and support confident classroom practice.

#### **Impactful Teaching of Judaism**

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2026 1.00 pm – 3.30 pm**

**Ian Nicholson – National RE Adviser**

This course will enable any teacher of RE the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of Judaism. This will focus on the substantive content within Judaism to exploring how disciplinary knowledge can be harnessed to provide theological, social science and philosophical teaching and learning activities.

This will focus on the substantive content within Judaism to exploring how disciplinary knowledge can be harnessed to provide theological, social science and philosophical teaching

and learning activities. This course complements the RE Today publication Exploring Jewish Worldviews, a copy of which can be purchased at the time of booking for a reduced rate should you need it. If you are a primary NATRE member you may already have access to this publication and can book the course without the accompanying book. If you have ECTs in your school this will support them in delivering this important Abrahamic faith.

### **Impactful Teaching of Hindu Dharma**

**2nd July 2026 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm**

**Julia Diamond-Conway – National RE Adviser**

This engaging 90-minute course is designed for primary staff who teach about Hindu Dharma, or who would like to deepen their understanding. Suitable for all levels of experience, from those in ITT to experienced RE subject leaders, it will strengthen subject knowledge, extend understanding of Hindu Dharma as a lived and diverse tradition, and build confidence in teaching it well.

Participants will explore practical pedagogical approaches and adaptable lesson ideas, thoughtfully linked to ways of knowing in RE, helping pupils engage deeply and progress well in their learning about Hindu Dharma. There will be clear takeaways for classroom practice, whatever your level of expertise.

This session forms part of a series of courses exploring the principal religions and non-religious worldviews encountered in UK RE/RME/RVE classrooms. You are welcome to attend this as a standalone session or join others in the series. The course accompanies the book Exploring Hindu Worldviews by RE Today Services; copies can be purchased at a reduced rate when booking.

## **Secondary Phase Courses**

### **Impactful Teaching about Non-Religious Worldviews**

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2026 4.00 pm - 5.30 pm**

**Stephen Pett – National RE Adviser**

This course will enable any teacher of RE the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of matters of central importance in non-religious worldviews.

This will focus on substantive knowledge about the diversity of non-religion, using scholarly approaches, investigating data and findings from research projects in from disciplines of sociology, anthropology and psychology. It will provide example teaching and learning strategies.

This course complements the RE Today publication Investigating Non- Worldviews, a copy of which can be purchased at the time of booking for a reduced rate should you need it. If you are a secondary NATRE member you may already have access to this publication and can book the course without the accompanying book. If you have ECTs in your department this will also support them in developing their confidence in teaching this important component of RE.

### **Impactful Teaching about Judaism**

**24<sup>th</sup> June 2026 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm**

**Stephen Pett – National RE Adviser**

This course will enable any teacher of RE the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of matters of central importance in Judaism.

This will focus on substantive knowledge about the diversity of Jews and Judaism, using scholarly approaches, investigating sociological data, and applying theological and philosophical methods. It will provide example teaching and learning strategies.

This course complements the RE Today publication *Investigating Jewish Worldviews*, a copy of which can be purchased at the time of booking for a reduced rate should you need it. If you are a secondary NATRE member you may already have access to this publication and can book the course without the accompanying book. If you have ECTs in your department this will also support them in developing their confidence in teaching this important Abrahamic religion.

### **Impactful Teaching of the Hindu Dharma**

**30<sup>th</sup> June 2026            1.00 pm – 3.30 pm**

**Ian Nicholson – National RE Adviser**

This course will enable any teacher of RE the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Hindu Dharma. This will focus on the substantive content within the Hindu Dharma to exploring how disciplinary knowledge can be harnessed to provide theological, social science and philosophical teaching and learning activities.

This course complements the RE Today publication *Investigating Hindu Worldviews*, a copy of which can be purchased at the time of booking for a reduced rate should you need it. If you are a secondary NATRE member you may already have access to this publication and can book the course without the accompanying book. If you have ECTs in your department this will also support them in developing their confidence in teaching this important Dharmic religion.

### **Impactful Teaching of Sikhi Worldviews**

**2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026            3.30 pm -5.00 pm**

**Angela Hill – National RE Adviser**

This course will enable any teacher of RE the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of Sikhi.

This will focus on developing subject knowledge for 11-14's. It will also explore how disciplinary knowledge (ways of knowing) can be harnessed to provide theological, social science and philosophical teaching and learning activities.

This course complements the RE Today publication *Investigating Sikhi Worldviews*, a copy of which can be purchased at the time of booking for a reduced rate should you need it. If you are a secondary NATRE member you may already have access to this publication and can book the course without the accompanying book. If you have ECTs in your department this will also support them in developing their confidence in teaching this important Dharmic religion.

## **Understanding Christianity**

**7<sup>th</sup> July 2026            9.30 pm – 3.30 pm**

**Stephen Pett – National RE Adviser**

This course introduces the Understanding Christianity approach, deepening teachers' understanding of core theology and the Bible's big story while developing skills in theological and hermeneutical thinking. It demonstrates strategies for engaging pupils with texts and shows how the resource supports strong foundations for 11–14s in line with a religion and worldviews approach and the National Content Standard.

## **Impactful Teaching of Buddhism**

**8<sup>th</sup> July 2026            4.00 pm – 5.30 pm**

**Stephen Pett – National RE Adviser**

This course will enable any teacher of RE the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of matters of central importance in Buddhism.

This will focus on substantive knowledge about the diversity of Buddhists and Buddhism, using scholarly approaches, investigating sociological data, survey responses from 60 Buddhists, using case studies, applying literary methods to interpreting texts. It will provide example teaching and learning strategies.

This course complements the RE Today publication Investigating Buddhist Worldviews, a copy of which can be purchased at the time of booking for a reduced rate should you need it. If you are a secondary NATRE member you may already have access to this publication and can book the course without the accompanying book. If you have ECTs in your department this will also support them in developing their confidence in teaching this important Dharmic religion.

## **Cross Phase Courses**

### **Leadership Update (RE Update)**

**20<sup>th</sup> May 2026 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm**

**24<sup>th</sup> June 2026 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm**

**Ian Nicholson – National RE Adviser**

**Debbie Yeomans – National RE Adviser**

This series of leadership briefings develops understanding of national changes affecting the management and teaching of RE across all school settings. With curriculum changes on the horizon and new inspection frameworks emerging, it provides up-to-date information and guidance on leadership responsibilities for RE, from SLT and middle leaders to governors and trust boards, alongside opportunities to ask questions and engage with current developments in the world of RE. Ian (Secondary) and Debbie (Primary), both former SLT members, will be around to answer phase specific questions at the end of the session.

## Whole staff training or bespoke support for your school

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Whatever your needs, INSET Day, or dedicated support by an RE Adviser complete the enquiry from below and we will be happy to help! [Complete enquiry form](#)